

## Moodle Case Study: Using a metacourse to enhance programme identity

A metacourse is a Moodle course that is linked to at least one other Moodle course for its student enrolment. Adding (or removing) students to/from a metacourse can only be done from the courses it is linked to. The linked courses push enrolment information to the metacourse.

If we take the example of the Postgraduate Certificate in Humanitarian Action and Conflict programme running in the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment we can see that there are three modules on the programme – Conflict Sensitivity, Culture Sensitivity and Urban Crises. Each of these modules has a Moodle course containing specific modular content. The programme as a whole has a large amount of programme specific content that the team needs to convey to the students.

One option is to repeat the programme content three times in each of the individual modular courses but this is time consuming for staff and frustrating for students. There are issues with version control and the division of responsibilities for staff and the repetition of content for students.

A better alternative is to use the metacourse approach which will allow the programme specific content to be kept in one, easy to update location. The division of responsibility is also easier to manage as Module Leaders can maintain and update their modular content and Programme Leaders and/or Programme Administrators can maintain and update the programme content.

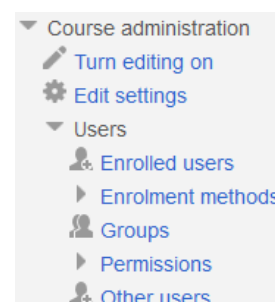
Please note that staff can only create metalinks between Moodle courses they have Module Leader (or above) access to.

### How can I set up a metacourse?

Navigate to the course you want to designate as a metacourse in Moodle.

Under **Settings** on the left hand menu, click on **Course administration>Users>Enrolment methods**.

Under the table that is displayed on the **Enrolment methods** screen, click on the down arrow under **Add method** and choose **Course meta link** from the drop down menu.



Enrolment methods

Name	Users	Up/Down	Edit
Manual enrolments	1	↓	✕ ⚙ ⚙
External database extended	29	↑ ↓	⚙
Self enrolment (Student)	0	↑	✕ ⚙ ⚙

Add method

- Choose...
- Choose...
- Self enrolment
- Cohort sync
- Course meta link
- Guest access

Course meta link

Link course\* OBIS







Add method Cancel

The course list takes several seconds to populate but eventually you will be presented with a dropdown list of courses that you are the Module Leader on to choose from.

Choose your course and then click on the **Add method** button. You can only choose one course at a time. If you need to choose multiple courses you will need to repeat the whole process.

Please note the list of courses is not displayed in alphabetical order and it is difficult to search manually through the list to find the appropriate course. It is easier for a Module Leader to do this than a DMELD as they will have far less courses listed.

Once the process is complete you will see the course listed in the **Enrolment methods** table saying **Course meta link (your course name in brackets)**.

Name	Users	Up/Down	Edit
Manual enrolments	7	↓	✕   
Self enrolment (Student)	0	↑ ↓	✕  
Course meta link (Modular Degree Course: BSc Applied Languages (French) (LY))	7	↑ ↓	✕ 



### How can I stop my course being meta linked to another?

Once again only a Module Leader or a DMELD can do this but as before under **Settings** on the left hand menu, click on **Course administration>Users>Enrolment methods**.

Click on the cross (the delete button) in the appropriate row of the **Enrolment methods** table. Click the **Continue** button to confirm the deletion.

### How can I check the student enrolments on a metacourse?

If you click on **Settings** on the left hand menu, then **Course administration>Users>Enrolled users** you will be presented with a list of users enrolled on your course.

Course meta link (Modular Degree Course: BSc Applied Languages (Spanish) (LZ)) enrolled Monday, 14 September 2015, 09:08
Manual enrolments from Monday, 14 September 2015, 00:00  

Those enrolled via a metacourse link will be displayed in exactly the same way as any other users on your course but they will have the meta course details under the column marked **Enrolment methods**.